Strollers Student Theatrics

presents

Neil Simon's

A comedy in two acts

November 18,19, and 20, 1993
Stadium II Theatre
Drake Union

Strollers Student Theatrics

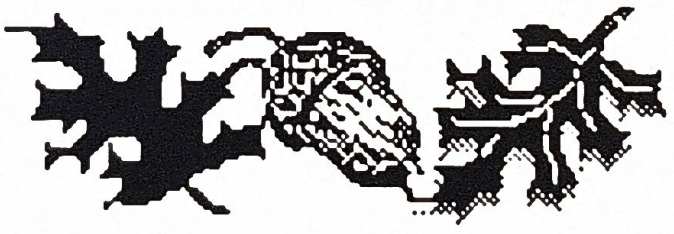
presents

Neil Simon's

Rumors

Director: Todd Morrow

Assistant Director: James Brent



Produced by special arrangement with

Samuel French, Inc.

Director's Note

This is my chance to tell you all a little about the production you are about to see. I would tell you all about the Strollers legacy but someone else has already done that. I would tell you all about me, but we'd run out of program space before I got to the good stuff. I could tell you all about Neil Simon, but I don't know him. So instead, I will tell you all what a pleasure it has been to be given the chance to direct this show. I am a firm believer that everyone has the capability to get on stage and be an actor. Acting is a little part in all of us. All of us have a flare for the dramatic and that is what this play is truly about. It is not just within the Strollers organization itself, but it lies within each character you meet tonight. If these people were truly smart, they would have had this wrapped up about a half an hour, but then we wouldn't have a story. So thanks to the basic need we all have to find ourselves in the center of insanity, and the desire to save the day and bathe in the limelight, I am able to present the show called **Rumors.**

When I first read this script I knew that timing and careful cast selection were going to be the key elements in pulling this thing off. I, myself, have a knack for understanding the absurd and calling it logic. So you can imagine the field day I am having with this one. But all the credit certainly does not lie within the direction, there are many other elements that make this an enjoyable show. Neil Simon is a master of playwriting, but never did I know that he could take ten ordinary people (your definition of ordinary applies here) and turn them into Oscar Wilde's wet dream. Can't you just feel the anticipation of turning one into a movie? More importantly, I have a wonderful cast to thank for making this whole experience worth it, and, when I think about it, that is what it all really comes down to in the end. I have made many new friends and seen some future stars in the Strollers organization, and hopefully they won't stop there. Just don't forget me when you're famous guys. It's a pleasure to be directing new members like Chris Seasholtz, Melanie Hoff, Cynthia Childs, and Diane Larusso. I look forward to working with regulars like Vickie Wilkes, Chris Stitzlein, Luisa Boyaggi, and Stefan Langer in the near future. I'm glad that graduating senior Keith Davis, who has been a part of Strollers for a long time, has chosen his last show to be mine. A big thanks to my assistant director James Brent and my stage managers Marc Wolff and Cézanne Charles. Together we make one heck of a team. Most important of all a larger than life thanks to all of you who came out to make our "big night" so special. So sit back, relax and turn your beepers off, and find out just what these Rumors are all about.

Michael Todd Morrow
Director

The Cast

Chris Gorman. . . . . Melanie Hoff
Ken Gorman. . . . . .Stefan Langer
Claire Ganz. . . . . .Cynthia Childs
Lenny Ganz. . . . . Chris Seasholtz
Cookie Cusak. . . . . Luisa Boyaggi
Ernie Cusak. . . . . Chris Stitzlein
Cassie Cooper. . . . . Victoria Wilkes
Glenn Cooper. . . . . Keith E. Davis
Officer Welch. . . . . Diane Larusso
Officer Pudney. . . . . .Roger Dusso

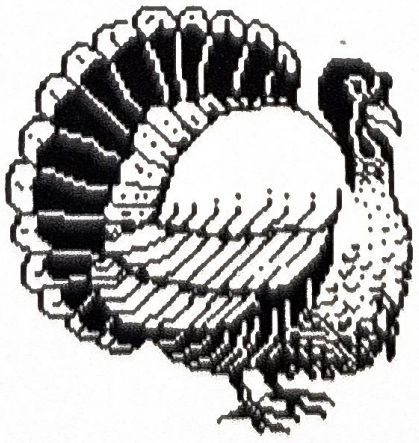
Synopsis of Scenes

Act 1

15 minute intermission

Act 2

Both acts take place in the living room of Charley and Myra Brock's home.



Meet the Ca

James Brent (Assistant Director) has been in and behind the scenes of many Strollers productions, including director of You Can't Take it with You, Paul Bratter in Barefoot in the Park, and other productions including Hawkeye Pierce in M*A*S*H, Uncle Max in The Sound of Music, and Sitting Bull in Annie Get Your Gun. He is also a political science graduate student, and when he's not learning, teaching, or performing, he enjoys road trips south or west, amusement parks and other places of amusement, and pursuing leisure aggressively.

Cézanne Jonee Charles (Assistant Stage Manager) is an international studies and japanese major. She has worked on and back stage in shows such as Welcome to the Monkey House as Marion Bockman, Curious Savage as Mrs. Paddy, Rehearsal for Murder as Karen, The Wiz as a prop mistress, and Guys and Dolls as an assistant stage manager. When she's not studying or doing theatre work, Cézanne also enjoys sleeping, cooking, eating, dating, working, reading, writing poetry, and having an active fictional romantic life.

Marc Wolff (Stage Manager) is an elementary education major who enjoys reading, groceries, and cats. Ed Carmichael in You Can't Take it with You and Sam Hoke in Night Watch were two Strollers shows that Marc has acted in. Playing Dick in Moonchildren was another show that he was involved in.

Melanie Hoff (Chris Gorman) is a theatre major and has danced with Francine Leroy's Tour de Force entertainment co. Besides dancing and acting, Melanie likes to "find fun anywhere!"

Stefan Langer (Ken Gorman) was in several other Strollers productions last year, including Father of the Bride as Ben Banks, You Can't Take it with You as Paul Sycamore, and Night Watch as Curtis Appleby. Other productions that Stefan has appeared in include The Nerd as Axel Hammond and The Importance of Being Earnest as Jack Worthing. He also enjoys movie special effects, drawing, painting, skiing, electroshock therapy, and chaos theory. In his spare time, Stefan studies industrial design and still manages to work at the OSU Hospital.

Cynthia Childs (Claire Ganz) has held the role of Sheila in The Boys Next Door. She is also a theatre major and besides acting, lists her favorite hobbies as fencing and talking to fish.

st and Crew

Christopher S. Seasholtz (Lenny Ganz) enjoys biking, concert going, theatre and cooking. He has been in Bad Seed and has student directed a play. Along with his theatre, Christopher has also been in speech club, going to the State finals in the National Forensic League three times and placed fifth in the humorous catagory in 1990. Christopher is an advertising major.

Luisa Boyaggi (Cookie Cusak) is a theatre major who has appeared in Peter Pan, Anything Goes, Annie, and You Can't Take it with You. She has only been in one other Strollers production, appearing as Bebe in A Chorus Line. Along with theatre, Luisa has sung with the Cleveland Singing Angels and enjoys reading, drawing, and learning.

Chris Stitzlein (Ernie Cusak) appeared as Greg in the Strollers production of A Chorus Line. He has also appeared as Henry Bevan in Robert and Elizabeth, Mr. Kirby in You Can't Take it with You, and Elwood Doud in Harvey. A history major, Chris also enjoys sports and sports trivia, comics, role-playing games, and miniature painting.

Vickie Wilkes (Cassie Cooper) is a communications major and enjoys theatre and sleeping. A veteran Strollers member, Vickie has been in the Strollers productions of You Can't Take it with You as Penny, Night Watch as Blanche, and A Chorus Line as stage manager and currently serves as the corresponding secretary.

Keith E. Davis (Glenn Cooper) will be graduating from OSU on December 10 with a degree in Horticulture. He has given a lot to Strollers, holding various officer positions and directing and playing Zach in A Chorus Line, playing Barnaby in The Matchmaker, and Dick in The Man Who Came to Dinner. He has also held roles and positions in numerous other shows. This summer, Keith had an internship at Disney World. He also enjoys gardening, reading, and photography. Keith would like to publicly thank all of the members, past and present, of Strollers Student Theatrics for 4 1/2 years of incredible theatrical experience. "Best of luck to all of you – I love you all!"

Diane Larusso (Officer Welch) enjoys writing fiction and reading. She has appeared as Madame Grimaldi in George M! and Lady Macbeth in Macbeth. Diane is also majoring in communications here at Ohio State.

Roger Dusso (Officer Pudney) says "this show blows Les Mis out of the water! I'll be signing autographs after the show!"

The Production Staff

Stage Manager. . . . . Marc Wolff
Assistant Stage Manager. . . . . Cézanne Charles
Set Design. . . . . Kate Sells
Ron Cannell
Michael Jon Washer
House Manager. . . . . Brian Domke
Sound and Lights. . . . . Tiffany Reed
Properties. . . . . Rusty Schwepe
Marc Wolff
Costumes. . . . . Cézanne Charles
O.P. Gallo Tuxedo
Vickie Wilkes
Make-up. . . . . Cézanne Charles
Program. . . . . Karen Wiebe
Cover Design. . . . . Stefan Langer
Ushers. . . . . Thomas Sadler
Victoria Villarreal

The following people helped with set construction: Mike Ash, Laura Boros, Susan Chalk, Cézanne Charles, Erin Clyde, Brian Domke, Caroleann French, Jeff Goddin, Carlina Mattos, Bob Murdock, Tiffany Reed, Thomas Sadler, Rusty Schwepe, Kate Sells, Victoria Villarreal, Heather Williams, and Marc Wolff.

The following people helped with publicity: Vickie Wilkes, Keith Albrecht, Jeremy Boback, Luisa Boyaggi, Cynthia Childs, Erin Clyde, Keith Davis, Caroleann French, Melanie Hoff, Stefan Langer, Diane Larusso, Carlina Mattos, Rusty Schwepe, Chris Seasholtz, Chris Stitzlein, Juanetta Stokes, Marie Tate, Karen Wiebe, and Heather Williams.

Acknowledgements

Jim Knapp

Ron Cannell

Joe Scharer

Theatre Department

Drake Union box office staff

Kinko's

The Strollers Officers say BREAK A LEG to the cast and crew of Rumors!!!

1993-94 Strollers Officers

President. . . . . Jason Freimark

Vice President. . . . . Jennifer Shook

Treasurer. . . . . Eric Lenard

Corresponding Secretary. . . . . Vickie Wilkes

Recording Secretary. . . . . Karen Wiebe

Adviser. . . . . Ron Cannell

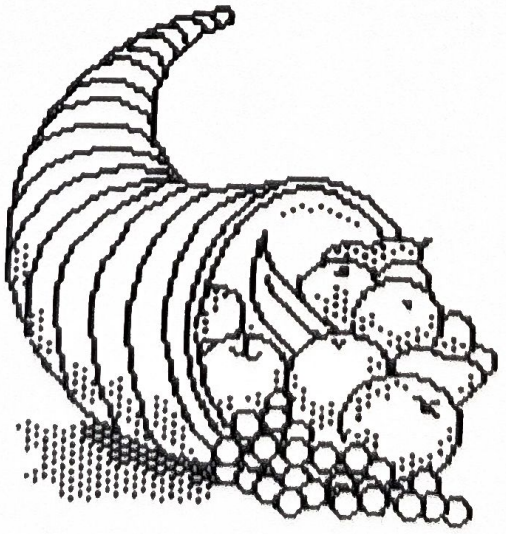
The Strollers Legacy

Strollers Student Theatrics was formed in 1892, making it the oldest co-recreational organization on Ohio State's campus. It was formerly known as Strollers Dramatic Society and was named after the strolling minstrels of medieval Europe. In 1982, Strollers merged with OSU Student Theatrics, another campus theatre organization, and became Strollers Student Theatrics. Over the 101 years since it's inception, Strollers has acquired many famous alumni including James Thurber, humorist, Milton Caniff, cartoonist, and Eileen Heckert, actress.

Strollers has not limited itself only to student involvement. We offer a wide variety of theatre experience to the campus and the community. Not only do the members act and perform, but they also hold administrative postions and a variety of behind-the-scenes positions. This gives many people a chance to participate in the arts. This 1993-1994 season marks our 101st year. In addition to *Rumors,* we invite you to see our other shows, *Nuts* and *Bus Stop.*

Strollers would like to survive long enough to see its 105th year, but it will need your help. Because of the nature of our organization, it is imperative that we receive sufficent funds and equipment to produce our shows. We gladly and graciously accept donations of props, costumes, furniture, and monetary gifts. If you are willing to donate, please call president Jason Freimark at 297-7999.

Thank you for your patronage. We hope you will enjoy this production of Neil Simon's *Rumors.*



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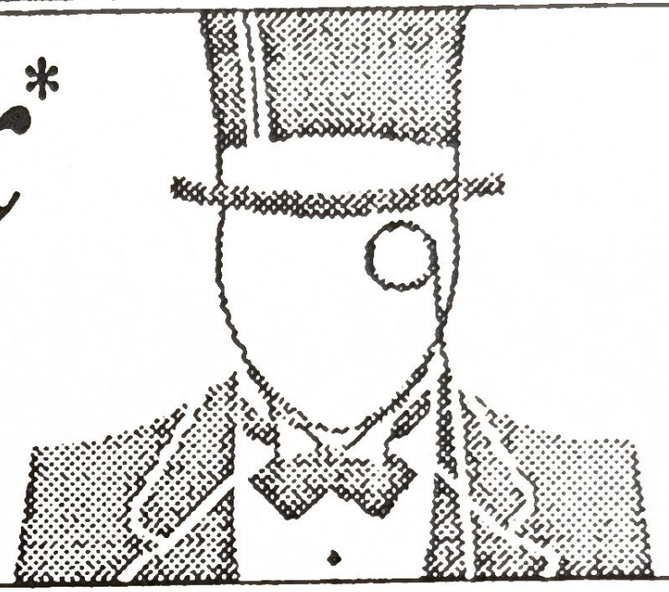

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